PRESIDENT: Order, order. I would be the last person standing in this place and sitting in this place for relaxing the severity of criticism against any officer whether he belongs to a commercial department or not. I am also at one with the honourable member when he says that the utmost jealousy and the utmost scrutiny are essential, especially when a department sets out to make a profit and does not do so, or is supposed not to do so. But it is possible to strike hard without striking below the belt.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Order, order. I have received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House from Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan. It says—

> "I beg leave that the business of this House be adjourned to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, *viz.*, the serious situation created by the yarn merchants of Quilon and Trivandrum having recently and publicly stopped sales of yarn to the weavers with a view to circumvent the orders of Government and causing thereby the business of weaving to come to a standstill and thousands of people to be thrown out of work, the orders of Government referred to being the recent Government order dated 31-11-1116 issued in exercise of the powers under Rule 81 of the Defence of Travancore Rules, fixing the maximum price for sales of the different varieties of cotton yarn in Trivandrum, Quilon and the mofussil stations for a period of three months."

I have no doubt that the matter is urgent. I have no doubt that the matter is of public importance. If the honourable member, after listening to what I shall have to say, wants to discuss this by way of an adjournment motion, I shall feel it my duty to allow it. But the position may be explained thus.

It is probably well-known that one of our main sources of yarn supply is Messrs. Harvey's Mills at Madura. The Managing Director of these mills, Mr. Doak is a very good personal friend of mine; and at my instance he has given special orders and instructions for the purpose of helping Travancore. He has further appointed agents to whom, under various contracts and stipulations entered into by that firm, yarn has to be supplied, of certain quantities and certain rates. It was with special advertence to these circumstances that I arranged for an interview with Mr. Doak not many days ago, and I pointed out to him that it was necessary that the distribution of yarn and the fixation of prices of yarn should be such as would not be prejudicial to the best interests of Travancore. I am glad to say that with characteristic discernment he acceded to my wishes and is endeavouring to co-operate with the Travancore Government. I have heard allegations similar to those underlying the present adjournment motion. Those allegations in essence amounted to this—that certain agents or sub-agents, taking advantage of their stocks of yarn or rather taking advantage of their contracts with Messrs. Harvey's to buy yarn, have entered into contracts for sale from Madura of that yarn to people outside Travancore. That would be an undoubtedly mischievous vasion of the Government's intentions. If Government, after due

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

enquiry and after giving the persons concerned sufficient opportunity to justify their conduct, come to the conclusion that there has been, that deliberate evasion, steps will be taken to see that they are no longer able to conduct that business within this State of yarn agents or misappropriators or profiteers. But until the other side is heard, and we know exactly what has to be said by them, no ex-parte judgment can be pronounced. Government are very much alive to the seriousness of the situation and they are taking steps, have already taken steps, in the matter. If, nevertheless, the honourable member wishes to have a debate on this motion, I am ready to give him the occasion.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Sir, a word of explanation. Since the price of cotton yarn has been fixed by Government, and especially since this Assembly met, I am given to understand that yarn merchants at Quilon have practically stopped the sale of yarn.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. We have heard two things; first of all, that yarn destined for Travancore is being deflected from Travancore and, secondly, that people having stocks of yarn would not sell it but would keep it locked up. Both these matters will have to be considered and steps will have to be decided upon by Government. And Government with such powers that they have will try to do their utmost to help the people.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: The question of Quilon deserves special consideration because it is a very important weaving centre.

PRESIDENT: There is Kottar.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: On account of the present situation thousands of weavers have been thrown out of work. In one pakuthy alone in the Quilon Division,—Chathannur, there are about 2,000 shuttles.

PRESIDENT: Order, order The honourable member does not see that the situation is very complicated. We do not produce yarn. Yarn has to come from outside. We must get that and see to its proper distribution. The fixation of prices by Government, if it is too low, will prevent yarn from coming into the State at all, because there is no need for the producers to send it to Travancore. Therefore we have to take other people with us in regard to the fixation of prices and see to it that there is some incentive for the people to come and sell the yarn here. All that we want is to prevent people from profiteering. We can realise the importance of Quilon as well as Kottar. But the problem can only be viewed comprehensively and with due advertence to the circumstances that we are not yarn producers and that we have to get yarn from outside.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: A word of explanation, Sir. I referred to the pitiable position of the weavers in Quilon and places around it. The weavers in the suburbs of Quilon are dependent entirely on weaving.

PRESIDENT: What does the honourable member suggest?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: For the information of this House and also for the information of the Chair and the Government, I would add that because the sale of yarn has been completely stopped, those weavers have been completely thrown out of work. These are the months of Mithunam and Karkadagom when the weavers and other persons are hard hit. So the severity of the situation is all the greater as it arises at the present time. The Dewan-President was pleased to state yesterday that some representations have been received from the merchants that the price fixed here is lower than what they have to pay at the mills.

PRESIDENT: Not the price at the mills but the price ruling in Madura and other places.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: I would submit that as I understand, the price fixed here is Rs. 6-2-0 per packet whereas the price at the Madura Mills is Rs. 6-6-0 per packet. The sole agents for the Harvey Mills in Trivandrum are two persons so to speak, and these two persons alone under the present circumstances will be in a position to sell at the rate fixed by Government. But the difficulty is not with regard to these two agents. The difficulty is with regard to the other merchants who are getting down yarn, not from Harvey Mills, but from other Mills. They are at present, as I understand, getting down yarn at the rate of Rs. 7-12-0 even after the fixation of prices and it would be very hard on these people to be asked to sell yarn at the rates fixed by Government. What I would submit in conclusion is that it is up to the Government with all the consideration that they are now showing, to see that these two sole agents of the Harvey Mills take up the full responsibility of getting down the necessary yarn from the Harvey's, because they are in a position to supply all the yarn that is required for this State.

PRESIDENT: You will remember that Harvey's supply the whole of India with yarn.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir. So my proposition is that these two agents of Harvey's should be asked to get down the yarn necessary for the whole of the State and to sell that yarn at the rate fixed by Government. Then certainly all the weavers of the country will be benefitted. In case these two agents cannot be asked to do it, it is up to Government to see that they themselves get down yarn at their own initiative and distribute it to the weavers of the State. If my information is correct, Government are now doing these things to a certain extent. With these words, I do not press the motion for adjournment. I am very thankful to you, Sir, for the kind assurance which you have been pleased to give.

PRESIDENT: I am thankful to the remarks that have been made and the elucidation of the position. But honourable members of this House must realise that with the most paternalistic impulses of this Government there are limits to its activity. To undertake the collection of yarn for the whole State, and to undertake also the distribution of that yarn would be a very big job indeed which cannot be lightly undertaken by Government until at the last extremity and if

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

there be no other alternative. The honourable member has already stated that Government are trying within a limited extent to be purchasers of yarn themselves and distributors of yarn. They have not only purchased yarn for certain of their own industries but they are helping other organisations by way of making contact with Harveys and enabling them to fulfil their engagements. Government are taking a certain amount of responsibility in the matter, but honourable members who approach Government with these requestsmust realise that this is a most excellent opportunity for the businessmen of Travancore to do work which they are peculiarly adapted and fitted to do. And if they undertake such work, Government will only be most anxious to assist them. What is there to prevent a syndicate of businessmen being now formed for the purpose of entering into negotiation with Harveys, for the purpose of laying stock of yarn and for the purpose of selling it at a legitimate profit? If they undertake to do that, Government will be most glad financially and otherwise to help that syndicate. How is Government, that impersonal and inefficient body, to collect and distribute this yarn? What are the businessmen of Travancore doing? It is a warning and an appeal and I trust that it will be heeded.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 7,09,732 under Demand I—Excise Department.

Motions Nos. 1 to 3.

The following motions were not moved:

		Rs.
Mr. Kottalil P. Abraham.		
1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,810 for Inspectors by	..	1
Mr. K. Kunju Panickar.		
2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,810 for Inspectors by	..	10
Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar.		
3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,04,255 for customs by	..	1

Motion No. 4.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I move the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,04,255 for Customs by Re. 1.

Sir, this is intended to point out the necessity of having declaration forms in Tamil, in Anjugramam and Aramboly Chowkeys. Sir, when merchants apply for taking their goods from one place to another they are asked to produce application forms filled up with certain details, such as, destination, etc. Unfortunately the people of Anjugramam and Aramboly do not know Malayalam. These are Tamil areas. All the forms are printed only in Malayalam. It will be better to print some forms in Tamil also. It is only to ventilate this grievance that I move this motion.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Sir, I support this motion. These people do not know their own mother tounge. How will they be able to fill up these forms in Malayalam?

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